(i) Hiking of import duty from 5% to 10% (effective from 9.1.2002) to restrain imports;

(ii) Fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different varieties of cotton during each season;

(iii) Undertaking price support operation through CCI;

(iv) Launching the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) with four Mini-Missions having a total fund allocation of Rs. 593 crores with the objectives of increasing cotton production and productivity, transfer of technology, supply of certified seeds, improvement of marketing infrastructure and modernization/technological upgradation of existing ginning and pressing factories.

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in States

921. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have not yet adopted the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, which has been in operation since 2000;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made so far by Government to ensure that the scheme is implemented in all the States at the earliest, for the benefit of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Schcmne (NAIS) was introduced

from Rabi 1999-2000. The Scheme is voluntary .for StatesUTs. The States^UTs mentioned below have not so far opted for this scheme:

Arunachal Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir	Mizoram	Punjab
Rajasthan	Chandigarh	Daman & Diu	Manipur
Nagaland	Haryana	Uttranchal	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Delhi	Lakshadweep		

(b) Due to several reservations like inability to give matching share, assessment of crop loss on individual basis, high premia rates, support needed by States for crop cutting experiments, contribution to Corpus Fund, non-availability of yield data etc., some Statcs/UTs have not yet opted for the scheme.

(c) Efforts made at the Government level as well as by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)—Implementing Agency for the scheme—include written communications, personal visits to the States and publicity.

Research on rice and cotton pests

922. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ARGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been made by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research to protect rice and cotton from pests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what arc the protects undertaken by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) since its inception has focussed on developing resistant varieties to different diseases and insect pests of cotton and rice and their control measures